

VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes, January 22, 2004

(Approved March 18, 2004)

Members present: Jenny Fallon, Joseph Green, Margaret O'Brien, Sara Oaklander
Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Barry Winston

Members absent: Victoria Haase, Matthew Hausmann, Tim Higgins, Bill Hofmann

Also present: Delores Keefe, Phil Thayer

1. Call to order: At 7:10 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Jennifer Page.
Minutes from January 8, 2004 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. BEDPG survey results

Sarah Oaklander and Phil Thayer from BEDPG passed out copies of the survey report and discussed the results with the committee. Extensive comment and discussion followed, including these points:

- One of the biggest questions seems to be how to get property owners to rent to businesses other than banks, pizza and hair dressers.
- What incentives can be given to property owners to upgrade or expand their property?
- Perhaps the two new restaurant owners in Belmont Center should be interviewed to see what their experience has been moving into Belmont. Also, how their business is doing.
- It was agreed that in the upcoming 10 minute presentation to the selectman no solutions should be given. This is an opportunity to share the survey results before they are given to members of the business community and other interested parties.

3. Town Report

The committee was given the draft of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee submission for the Town Report. Members were asked to telephone Jennifer with suggestions by noon on Friday.

4. Environmental Initiative

Discussion continued on holding an Earth Day event not on the official Earth day. Jenny has done extensive exploration of available dates at the high school. "Official" Earth Day occurs during spring vacation, and we agreed that May would be preferable. Most of the Saturdays in May are taken, but a tentative date is May 22. We will need to check on the scheduling of Town Day, since we do not want to appear to be in conflict with that event.

5. Adjournment: At 9:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Winston,
Secretary Pro Tem